

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
114TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



BILL SUMMARY  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
EDUCATION

JULY 1989

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Sen. Barbara A. Gill

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ONE HUNDRED AND FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
BILL SUMMARIES  
AUGUST 1989

This document is a compilation of the bill summaries prepared by this office for the Joint Standing Committees and Joint Select Committees of the Maine Legislature. The summaries are arranged by LD number for each committee.

All Adopted Amendments are listed, by paper number (e.g., H-584 or S-222), together with the sponsor for floor amendments. Final action is listed to the right of the title. If final House and Senate action differ, both are listed. Committee Reports and Floor Action are abbreviated as follows:

OTP	Ought to Pass
OTP-ND	Ought to Pass in New Draft
OTP-ND-NT	Ought to Pass in New Draft, New Title
OTP-A	Ought to Pass as Amended
ONTP	Ought Not to Pass
LVWD	Leave to Withdraw
INDEF PP	Indefinitely Postponed

Each individual summary was prepared by the analyst assigned, as noted for each committee. But, this document was produced by the efforts of all the office staff, including Research Assistant Barbara McGinn, and secretaries: Charlene Brann, and Valarie Parlin, and especially Laurette Knox who coordinated preparation of the overall document.

Please give us your suggestions and comments on these summaries and tell us of any inaccuracies.

**LD 338 An Act to Clarify Costs Associated with the Purchase of Land  
by School Administrative Units**

**CARRIED OVER  
APP/FIN COMM**

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
ESTES NORTON CROWLEY PARADIS J	OTP-AM	S-43

SUMMARY

Currently, there is no provision in the statutes addressing reimbursement to a unit for purchasing land which is not part of a school construction project. The bill includes the cost of purchase of land other than that in conjunction with a school construction project as a minor capital cost.

The committee amendment (S-43) requires that these land purchases be approved by the legislative body of the school administrative unit and by the commissioner.

The bill was carried over in the Appropriations Committee.

**LD 355 An Act to Allow School Districts to Waive Up to 5 Days of  
Kindergarten for Screening**

**PUBLIC 128  
EMERGENCY**

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
SMALL	OTP-AM	H-101

SUMMARY

This bill authorizes local school units to use up to 5 kindergarten instructional days during the school year for screening next year's incoming kindergarten class for special needs. The committee amendment provided that use of those screening days must be consistent with a plan for their use approved by the Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services. The committee amendment also adds an emergency preamble, emergency clause and fiscal note.

**LD 365 An Act to Allow a Student an Option in Biological Dissection**

**NOT SIGNED AS  
OF 7/26/89**

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
CARROLL D ESTES ANDREWS KILKELLY	OTP-AM	H-334 H-383 CROWLEY

SUMMARY

This bill would have authorized elementary and secondary school students to refuse to participate in any educational course requirement involving the harmful or destructive use of animals and establishes a process in the school to develop an alternative education project, if possible. The bill also requires the school to notify students of their right and prohibits discrimination against students based on their exercise of this right.

The amendment would have clarified and expanded on several parts of the original bill by: (1) adding a definition of "harmful or destructive use" and applying that term consistently in the bill, (2) redefining "alternative education project" to include a broad range of equivalent alternatives, many of

which can be provided from existing resources at little or no additional cost to the school, (3) requiring the development of an alternative project which meets the minimum level of equivalent activity when a student chooses not to participate in dissection, (4) establishing the Biological Dissection Options Fund within the Department of Educational and Cultural Services to be used to provide equipment and materials to schools for use in offering alternative education projects, and (5) directing the department to assess the impact of this Act and to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education in December, 1990.

**LD 446      An Act to Amend an Act Incorporating the Trustees of  
Bridgton Academy**

**P & S 13**

SPONSOR(S)  
HASTINGS  
CROWLEY  
JACKSON  
TWITCHELL

COMMITTEE REPORT  
OTP

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

This bill allows Bridgton Academy to make the determination of the number of trustees of the academy and the quorum necessary for doing business by changing the bylaws of the Academy, instead of having those numbers set out in the charter of the academy.

**LD 465      An Act to Assist Local Educational Authorities in Replacing  
Unsafe School Buses**

**LV/WD**

SPONSOR(S)  
KILKELLY  
NORTON  
BREWER  
ESTES

COMMITTEE REPORT  
LV/WD

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

This bill would have provided for an additional inspection of pre-1977 school buses, development of a safety rating system to rank those buses according to their degree of unsafeness and replacement of those buses in accordance with their safety rating under a formula to be developed by the department.

**LD 478      Resolve, Requiring the Department of Educational and  
Cultural Services to Study Textbooks in Schools and School  
Libraries of the State**

**DIED BETWEEN  
HOUSES**

SPONSOR(S)  
HANDY  
BURKE  
CATHCART

COMMITTEE REPORT  
OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED  
H-164

SUMMARY

The original resolve would have required the Department of Educational and Cultural Services to study textbooks in Maine schools for the use and extent of sexist and racist language, ethnic and cultural stereotypes and historical accuracy and to study school libraries in Maine to determine the availability